fication No. 208/81 is pending decision before High Court of Bombay and other Courts. The matter is *subjudice*.

Duty-free clearance of various types of infusion sets

1648. SHRI MIRZA IRSHADBAIG: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all Custom Houses are permitting duty-free clearance of various types of infusion sets under Customs Notification No. 208|81;

(b) if so, under which heading and serial number of the said Notification; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (c) Butterfly Needle Infusion sets are allowed import free of Custom duty in terms of Customs Notification No. 208/81 under serial No. 44. The admissibility of the duty-free concession for other types of infusion sets is subjudice before the Bombay High Court and Madras High Court.

Silk weaving industry

1649. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the silk weaving industry in Varanasi is facing extinction; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to revive this industry and help the weavers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The problems of silk weavers of Varanasi have been discussed with State Government of Uttar Pradesh, Weavers' Societies and other Central/ State Agencies. In order to help the weavers the following steps have been taken by the concerned agencies:—

(i) Karnataka Silk Marketing (KSMB) has opened an additional silk yarn depot at Varanasi.

(ii) KSMB has offered to sell silk yarn on credit to 3 Apex Co-op. Societies on the guarantee of Government of Uttar Pradesh.

(iii) Uttar Pradesh Handloom Development Corporation is implementing a Varanasi silk project under which about 4000 silk weavers are being covered for supply of yarn and procurement of finished products from them.

(iv) State Government of Uttar Pradesh and National Handloom Development Corporation have been advised to consider feasibility of setting up Silk Twisting Plants at Varanasi.

Besides, out of 36 tonnes of raw silk imported by the Central Silk Board so far during 1988, about 19 tonnes has been allotted to the agencies in Uttar Pradesh.

Use of synthetic materias in government buildings

1650. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a policy decision not to use any timber and allied materials in Government buildings but to opt for synthetic materials in order to protect forest products and trees; and